



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

January 24, 2005

## ICE ARRESTS 2 INVOLVED IN AUTOMOTIVE FRAUD SCHEME

*-Men arrested facing extradition to Alabama-*

MIAMI- Two U.S. citizens involved in a complex international securities fraud scheme were arrested here Friday by U.S. Immigration and Customs (ICE) special agents.

Jules Pier, 62, and Mike Mervish, 48, were arrested based on a warrant issued out of the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit in Alabama. The warrant was issued following a state investigation that revealed their alleged involvement in securities fraud.

Jules Pier, was arrested at SmartZ USA, his place of employment, while Mervish was arrested at a different location. SmartZ USA is located at 3711 S.W. 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Davie, Florida.

The indictment was handed down by a grand jury in Jefferson County Bessemer Cutofft in January 2006. The indictment alleges that both men were involved in securities fraud surrounding the preparation of a fraudulent offering document with SMD Automotive.

It is further alleged that the men participated in different automobile schemes, one of which is the Gazelle scheme involving Eurasia motors. Mervish had previously been the subject of a hidden camera interview where it was revealed that he sold franchises for a car that didn't exist.

Both men are in South Florida awaiting their extradition to Alabama.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Alabama Securities Commission, the District Attorney's Office Bessemer Cutofft, and other regulatory agencies are working together in an ongoing investigation for possible prosecution in other international schemes that may be linked to this case.

ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity relating to this case or other cases involving securities fraud to call our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock. The Alabama Securities Commission Enforcement Division may also be contacted by dialing 1-800-222-1253.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*